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UPPINGHAM

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDING

31st December, 1957.

...oOo...

UPPINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1957.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1957. This Report deals generally with matters within my responsibility regarding Public Health and Preventive Medicine and is presented in the form required by the Ministry of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres).....	24,735
Registrar General's Estimate of Population.....	6,240
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1957..	1,996
Rateable Value.....	£ 56,156
Nett product of a penny rate.....	£ 235. 12. 0.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Live Births -	Legitimate	46	37	83
	Illegitimate	4	4	8
		50	41	91
Still Births -	Legitimate	-	1	1
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
		-	1	1

	Rate for District.	Rate for England & Wales.
Birth Rate	18.7	16.1
Death Rate	9.7	11.5
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births.	10.9	23.0

These statistics compare very favourably with those for England & Wales.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females.
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	-	1
Other Malignant & Lumphatic Neoplasms	3	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	5
Coronary disease. Angina	3	1
Other heart disease	6	7
Other circulatory disease	7	3
Pneumonia	2	4
Bronchitis	2	-
Hyperplasis of prostate	1	-
Congenital malformations	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	4
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-
All other accidents	-	1
Suicide	1	1
	33	33

PREVALANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1957.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Whooping Cough	25	-	-
Measles	23	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Dysentery	1	-	-

Disease.	Under 1	1/2	2/3	3/4	4/5	5/10	10/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/64	65 & Over.
Whooping Cough	4	4	4	3	2	6	2					
Measles	1	1	1	3	6	8	1	1			1	
Erysipelas												1
Pneumonia											1	
Dysentery												1

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Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1957.

Age Groups	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TYPE OF DISTRICT.

The district is almost entirely agricultural.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health - John Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Camb. The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire and Rutland combined Districts in which this district is included.

Public Health Inspector & Surveyor - J.E. Garbett, M.R.S.H.

The following examinations were carried out during the year at the Public Health Laboratory, Leicester:-

Nose & Throat Swabs	2
Faeces & Urine	6
Sputa	6
V & C	2
Milk	33
Water	42
Whooping cough Swabs	1
Miscellaneous	2
	94

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

Supply.

The water supply for the district is derived as follows:-

(a) from the Uppingham R.D.C's. Welland Valley Waterworks to the parishes of Uppingham
Lyddington
Thorpe-by-Water
Ayston
Bisbrooke
Seaton
Stoke Dry
Glaston.

(b) from the Uppingham R.D.C's. borehole at North Luffenham to the parishes of North Luffenham
South Luffenham
Morcott
Wing
Preston
Ridlington
Pilton

(c) from the Uppingham R.D.C's. borehole at Allexton (in Billesdon Rural District) to the parish of Belton.

(d) from the Oundle & Thrapston R.D.C's. borehole at Tixover (bulk supply) to the parish of Barrowden.

(e) from the Mid-Northants Water Board supply to the parish of Caldecott.

(f) Only two small parishes remain without public mains supply, i.e. Wardley (population 26) and Beaumont Chase (population 4). At Wardley a good piped supply is available from a private estate source.

Quantity & Quality.

1957 saw the completion of the Council's schemes of water supply and the provision of mains water to all centres of population in the district (excepting Wardley, already adequately supplied). Only a few isolated properties remain outside the range of the water mains. Four villages with a total population of 543 were included in the mains extension schemes during the year.

Thirty-six samples of mains water suplies in the district were taken for bacteriological examination. The reports received were consistently good. None of the mains water supplies have any plumbo-solvent characteristics.

Samples of water from shallow wells still remaining in use were taken from time to time and action taken in one or two cases to improve the quality of the water obtained from them.

There was no shortage of water during the year.

The following tables shows the position at the end of the year regarding mains supplies to dwellings in the various parishes:

Parish	Population (est).	No.of Habitable dwellings.	No. of Houses in village not supplied.
Ayston	62	15	3
Barrowden	375	125	4
Belton	285	102	16
Bisbrooke	150	60	4
Caldecott	285	91	-
Glaston	173	57	2
Luffenham North	435	140	9
Luffenham South	330	100	5
Lyddington	290	108	5 (Est).
Morcott	320	114	12
Pilton	32	8	-
Preston	200	73	10
Ridlington	160	62	4
Seaton	190	58	2
Stoke Dry	30	11	3
Thorpe-by-Water	50	12	2
Uppingham	2528	725	3
Wing	235	106	-
Totals	6130	1967	84 (Est).

Complete figures are not available for the parish of Caldecott, which is within the area of supply of the Mid-Northants Water Board.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

The position remains unchanged from last year. The sewered areas are

Uppingham
Lyddington
Belton
Glaston and
Parts of Preston.

Some progress was made towards the preparation of schemes to improve the sewerage of the district. The Council's consulting engineers were given instructions to prepare a scheme for a modern sewage disposal works to take the place of the sewage farm which has been in use in Uppingham for three-quarters of a century. At the same time the consultants received instructions to extend the Uppingham sewerage system in the London Road area of the town, where several school houses and other properties are served by inadequate private disposal units which cause severe pollution of the small stream to which they discharge effluents.

In June, a local investigation was conducted by an Inspector from the Ministry of Housing & Local Government into the proposals put forward by the Council for a combined sewerage scheme for the villages of North and South Luffenham. At the end of the year, no further progress had been made with this urgent scheme.

Conditions in various villages in the district emphasize the need for following up the provision of mains water with sewerage schemes as soon as possible. Inevitably, the increased consumption of water leads to serious difficulties in the disposal of waste, and the desire and urgent need to install water closets is frustrated. This is notably so in the case of village schools still depending upon pail closets for the use of children and staff. Numerous "sewage dykes" convey crude and septic sewage to rivers and streams in the district. These dykes are foul nuisances and a potential danger to health.

The estimated closet accommodation in the district is

(a) Prives and pail closets	780
(b) Water closets	1,025

PUBLIC CLRANSING.

The refuse collection system is for fortnightly collection from all properties and weekly collections from Hotels, Cafes and School Houses in Uppingham.

Although only one refuse collection vehicle and three men are employed, the scavenging work proceeded reasonably smoothly through the year. With a small labour staff and no reserve vehicle, it is impracticable to preserve a rigid collection schedule and any time lost due to mechanical breakdown of the vehicle and holidays or sickness of the men cannot be made up again. Once again, credit should be given to the men for the consistent work they put in and very small loss of time due to sickness. Absence and sickness rates amongst refuse collectors is generally high in districts in the country as a whole.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE OF PESTS ACT, 1949.

As before, the Council participated in the Rutland County Joint Pest Control Scheme, which continued to work well through the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Particulars given here are for all purposes, including particulars given elsewhere in the report.

Total number of complaints received..... 51

Number of defects or nuisances discovered..... 30

Nature of inspections.	No. of inspections.	No. of re-visits.
Dwellinghouses	88	66
Tents, vans, etc.	5	7
Food premises	21	29
Offensive Trades	-	-
Factories & workshops	10	3
Drainage systems	81	24
Sewage plants	33	129
Slaughterhouses	6	98
Meat & Foods	123	-
Infectious disease	5	-
Refuse collection & disposal	12	10
Miscellaneous	88	131
	472	497

Notices.

Preliminary.	Housing.	Other.
Outstanding on 1st January, 1957	1	1
Issued during the year	13	11
Complied with during the year	7	9
Statutory action necessary	-	2
Outstanding on 31st December, 1957	7	3

Statutory.	Housing.	Other.
Outstanding on 1st January, 1957	-	-
Issued during the year	-	2
Complied with during the year	-	2
Outstanding on 31st December, 1957	-	-

Inspections by the Medical Officer of Health.

Dwellinghouses	68
Food premises	66
Shops	71
Dairies & Cowsheds	5
Miscellaneous	50

H O U S I N G

A considerable number of sub-standard cottages still exist in the district. Many of these cottages are very old and of architectural or historical interest. The policy of the Council has, therefore, been to give every possible urge to owners to recondition and improve properties and only in the last resort to demolish. This policy has been followed with some success by means of grants given under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949. It is, however, noticeable that few landlords take advantage of improvement grants and the majority of the latter go to owner-occupiers.

The following are the figures for the year:

Unfit houses demolished by local authority	7
" " " " owners	6
Houses improved to grant standard (Housing Act, 1949)	27
House improvement grant schemes approved	36

Inspections of dwellinghouse during the year.

1.	(a) Total number inspected for defects (under the Housing Acts).	53
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	154
2.	Number of dwellinghouses found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	46

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Dwellinghouses rendered fit as result of informal action by Local Authority or their officers	6

Post War Housing.

Very little new housing activity took place during the year. Two private development houses were completed and seven were under construction. Four new Council Houses (to re-house the occupants of temporary hutted type buildings) were commenced in the village of Lyddington.

At the end of the year, there were 88 applications for Council Houses on the waiting list 20 of these applications were from outside the Council's area.

F O O D

Milk.

Thirty-two samples of milk produced and/or retailed in the district were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Leicester, for bacteriological examination. The reports received were good except in one case which led to the detection of a cow with brucella abortus. The cow was removed from the milking herd and reports from this source of supply have since been good.

Ice-Cream.

No ice-cream is maunfactured in the district. All registered premises sell pre-packed ice-cream obtained from approved manufacturers.

Meat & Foods.

Five small private slaughterhouses were licensed during the year, but one of them was not used. In the four slaughterhouses used, slaughtering took place at irregular times, including evenings and week-ends. Due to these factors and pressure of work in other directions, it was not possible to inspect all animals slaughtered. Even so, the average inspection ratio was raised from the approximate 20% reported the previous year to approximately 50% in 1957. The standard of meat produced in the district remained very high and no diseased meat was detected in the carcases inspected.

Carcases Inspected.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (estimated only)	140	Nil	Nil	670	200	Nil
Number inspected	88	-	-	295	117	-

Consistent meat inspection in a rural district where the sole Public Health Inspector has many other duties to perform is a physical impossibility. At present, meat inspection is not a statutory obligation laid on the local authority, but the signs are that it may become so. In such circumstances, the power to control slaughtering hours would be a necessity. To inspect meat efficiently, it is essential for the inspector to be at the slaughterhouse at the time of slaughter.

Thirty-eight items of food in tins, jars or other pre-packed containers were condemned during the year.

Food premises.

1. - No. of Food Premises in Area by Type of Business.

Bakehouses	6
Dairies	1
Butcher's shops	7
Cafes & Hotels	8
Grocers Shops (inc. Greengrocers etc.)	28
Fish fried	1
Fish fresh	1
Premises for sale of Ice-Cream	27

N.B. Certain premises are automatically included under more than one sub-heading, e.g. Cafes and Ice-Cream premises.

No. of Food Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Premises Registered for the sale of Ice-Cream.....	27
Others.....	1

No of Dairies registered under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.

.....	1

3. - No. of inspections of Registered Food Premises.

.....	31

4. - Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

- Burnt or buried at Council Refuse Tip.

5. - Examination of Food Consignments.

.....	Nil

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.

During the year some progress was made towards bringing food premises in the district up to the standards prescribed by the Regulations. The main difficulty encountered was the basic unsuitability of some old buildings for their present use. Compliance with the Regulations involves considerable expense which small busineses find difficulty in meeting.

Due to pressure of work in other directions, the application of the Food Hygiene Regulations has, so far, been mainly confined to premises where food is prepared, i.e. hotels, cafes and bakehouses.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE, 1948.

No action has been necessary during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN YOUNG.

Medical Officer of Health.

Warwick Lodge,
Dalby Road,
Melton Mowbray.